

FLORICULTURE

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY



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THIS HESITANT SPRING

BUDS are swelling at the Arboretum, but their opening is far behind schedule. The continued cold, cloudy spell will be responsible for many peculiarities in blooming dates this year. Some plants are as much as three weeks late in flowering. *Viburnum fragrans*, for example, is just now starting to flower. Only half of the flowers of *Magnolia stellata* are open at the time this is being written. About half of the buds near the top of the trees came into bloom last week, but the rest have remained tightly closed, awaiting warmer weather.

Forsythias should be in bloom now. There are many bushes at their height of color in warm, protected places in the city, but at the Arboretum, forsythias are just beginning to show patches of yellow here and there. *Forsythia ovata*—normally opening a week before the rest—came into flower only a few days ago. The spice bush is not yet in full bloom, but various species of *Corylopsis* have been in flower for about a week. *Rhododendron mucronulatum* is not a mass of colorful flowers—yet. Many of the flowers opened on a warm day last week, but the weather has been so cold since that the majority of flower buds are still closed. When these buds do open the flowers which have been out for some time will undoubtedly begin to fade, so that the display of color made by these plants this year will be mediocre. The same is true of *Magnolia stellata* plants growing in front of the Administration Building. Fortunately the plants of *M. stellata rosea* in the lawn in front of the building are still in tight bud; and if we have a warm spell of several days' duration, these plants should make a splendid display.

The winter has been a very mild one, at least as far as the woody plants at the Arboretum are concerned. It is true that some of the

evergreens have been slightly burned, but this was done by the hurricane of last September and not by the winter. Apparently, there has been no serious winter injury to flower buds. One of the "indicator" plants in this respect is *Viburnum fragrans*, which is injured so frequently by cold in the winter. This spring all the flower buds are in excellent condition, and now they are gradually opening. This is a fine plant for early spring flowers, but is best used south of New England where it is reliably hardy. The late season is well illustrated by a list of blooming dates kept by Mr. W. H. Judd, of the Arboretum staff, and reproduced in part on page 16.

Notes

Dr. E. D. Merrill, Administrator of Botanical Collections, Harvard University, and Director of the Arnold Arboretum, has just received through the State Department, the gold medal of the Ministère de l'Agriculture of the French Republic and the corresponding diploma of the Société Nationale d'Acclimation de France. These were conferred on Dr. Merrill at a session of the Société d'Acclimation in Paris on February 12, 1939, in appreciation of his services to French horticulture.

Estimated Blooming Dates for the Arnold Arboretum, 1939

Magnolias	May 3-7
Single-flowered Japanese cherries, shadbushes	May 3-7
Crabapples, double-flowered Japanese cherries	May 15-20
Torch azaleas	May 18-24
Lilacs, wisterias, deutzias, hawthorns	May 20-24
Rhododendrons	June 10-15

It is extremely difficult to predict reasonably accurate blooming dates in advance this year. Those given above should be considered only as approximations. A very warm spell in early May will change them all.

DONALD WYMAN



PLATE II

Viburnum fragrans

Photographed in the Arnold Arboretum, April 15, 1931,
by Professor Oakes Ames

Blooming Dates of Individual Plants in the Arnold Arboretum*

Year	'31	'32	'33	'34	'35	'36	'37	'38	'39
<i>Abeliophyllum distichum</i>	—	—	—	21	17	1	—	1	24
<i>Acer rubrum</i>	10	—	1	9	18	M30	14	M23	20
<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	M1	J15	J24	M17	M11	M17	J14	M23	M5
<i>Benzoin aestivale</i>	—	21	29	19	—	19	19	15	28
<i>Cercidiphyllum japonicum</i>	12	20	21	18	20	12	17	14	28
<i>Cornus mas</i>	7	3	1	13	17	16	10	1	20
<i>Corylopsis pauciflora</i>	25	23	29	22	19	3	—	15	25
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	5	—	9	1	M25	—	8	M25	20
<i>Dirca palustris</i>	3	10	9	7	21	M30	14	14	20
<i>Forsythia ovata</i>	10	17	—	18	19	1	4	1	20
<i>Hamamelis mollis</i>	F25	J15	J25	—	M7	M20	J11	—	—
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	N29	D3	N28	N21	D12	D13	D19	N21	—
<i>Lonicera praeflorens</i>	2	2	M30	7	10	M27	9	1	13
<i>Lonicera standishi</i>	12	J21	19	18	18	—	—	1	22
<i>Magnolia denudata</i>	17	21	—	19	20	22	20	15	29
<i>Magnolia kobus borealis</i>	17	20	29	19	—	19	19	15	m?
<i>Magnolia soulangeana speciosa</i>	18	24	—	21	25	23	23	m1	m?
<i>Magnolia stellata</i>	10	17	19	15	19	M31	12	14	29
<i>Prunus armeniaca "Mikado"</i>	20	21	—	—	—	22	25	16	m?
<i>Prunus concinna</i>	22	29	29	—	—	23	m1	19	m?
<i>Prunus davidiana</i>	10	6	9	—	—	M30	9	1	22
<i>Prunus incisa</i>	22	28	m1	26	27	24	m1	20	m?
<i>Prunus mandshurica</i>	17	20	—	20	—	14	17	13	m?
<i>Prunus nigra</i>	30	m1	—	m1	m1	—	m7	20	m?
<i>Prunus sargentii</i>	20	29	m1	22	26	22	m1	20	m?
<i>Prunus subhirtella</i>	22	29	21	—	27	25	m1	20	m?
<i>Prunus subhirtella pendula</i>	22	29	29	—	27	—	m1	20	m?
<i>Prunus tomentosa</i>	20	21	—	25	27	23	25	16	m?
<i>Prunus triloba multiplex</i>	22	m1	—	—	28	m1	m1	20	m?
<i>Rhododendron dauricum</i>	—	J13	—	—	—	—	10	M27	20
<i>Rhododendron schlippenbachii</i>	m3	—	—	—	m1	—	m5	28	m?
<i>Rhododendron vaseyi</i>	m9	—	—	m6	—	m8	m13	m1	m?
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	3	3	—	3	1	M29	M13	M23	M20
<i>Viburnum fragrans</i>	5	J14	8	15	19	M30	J15	10	20

*These figures have been supplied by Mr. W. H. Judd, Propagator at the Arnold Arboretum. The dates represent the first day each plant could be considered to be in full bloom. The same plant has been inspected each year for this information.

Note: All dates given are for **April** unless otherwise noted.

N = November

D = December

J = January

F = February

M = March

m = May